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SUBSTITUTE SPECIFICATION

# PROCESS AND PLANT FOR LAYING A CYLINDRICAL PIPE ON A SUPPORT

## BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Field of the invention

The present invention relates to a process and a plant for laying a pipe in a trench.

Description of related art

Conventionally, pipes are made either of steel or of a composite composed especially of a filamentary tubular structure, for example based on glass fibers, which is impregnated with a curable resin, especially a resin which is curable under the effect of heat. The pipes are produced from elementary tube sections of predetermined length, for example 12 meters; by way of indication, their outside diameter is generally between 300 and 1 000 mm.

Steel pipes are produced by butt welding a large number of sections; they are then covered with a corrosion-protection coating. When the fluids transported are highly corrosive, an internal coating must also be provided.

Pipes made of a composite are advantageously used when the corrosion problems are very considerable, and do not allow the use of steel pipes. Such pipes are also produced conventionally starting from tubular sections of given length, for example 12 m, which are connected and fastened, end to end, generally by screwing, the final assembly being completed by adhesive bonding. Such pipes are very expensive, in particular because of the need to machine the ends in order to join the pipe sections end to end.

Of course, this conventional assembly technique poses transportation problems. In general, the pipes, are transported to the installation site by trucks, and the number of